

D-752  
Black Walnut Landing Farm  
Galestown vicinity  
c. 1880

Located at the point where the Marshyhope Creek empties into the Nanticoke River, the Black Walnut farm is defined by a late nineteenth century complex sited on a high sandy knoll overlooking the creek frontage and what has been historically called "Lower Black Walnut Landing." Formerly part of the great Nanticoke Indian reservation, the high well-drained nature of the site next to the navigable Marshyhope Creek (formerly the Northwest Branch) and Nanticoke River made it an ideal site for native American and later Anglo-American occupation. The extant historic buildings dating from the late nineteenth century include a two-story, three-bay center hall plan frame dwelling dating around 1880 and built during the ownership of John B. Taylor or his son John E. Taylor. John B. Taylor is located at this site on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, which is labeled "Walnut Landing." There was a store located at the site along with a dwelling. Both John B. Taylor and his son are found in the atlas patron list as merchants, having relocated to Dorchester County from Wicomico in 1872. The atlas business directory lists the two Taylors with their advertisement:

J. B. & J. E. TAYLOR, General Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Teas, Hardware, Crockery, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes. Would respectfully invite an examination of Stock believing that all can be satisfied, and it is for their interest to make purchases here. Arrangements have been made to keep constantly supplied with all the newest styles of Goods, Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Patent Medicines & c. Walnut Landing, Md.

The constant supply of consumer goods at the wharf-front store was provided by a family-owned schooner, *Mary Alice*, and two scows the plied the waters of the Nanticoke and Marshyhope during the mid to late nineteenth century. In 1879, John B.

Taylor wrote his will, leaving the Dorchester County Indian Town lands and the schooner *Mary Alice*, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  interest in the scows along with his gold watch, to his partner son John. In April 1900, John E. Taylor and his wife, Annie C. Taylor, then residing in Wicomico County, conveyed "Lower Black Walnut Landing" and the property known as "Indiantown Farm" and "Quioccosin Swamp" to Joshua J. Bennett for \$3,100. The farm remained in Bennett family ownership until the mid twentieth century.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-752

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Black Walnut Landing, Indian Town Farm  
other Walnut Landing Farm

### 2. Location

street and number Walnut Landing Road not for publication  
city, town Galestown x vicinity  
county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name The Nature Conservancy  
street and number 5410 Grosvenor Lane Suite 100 telephone  
city, town Bethesda state MD zip code 20814-2144

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 406 folio 95  
city, town Cambridge tax map 46 tax parcel 26 tax ID number 01-007610

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	3
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	3
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-752

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Black Walnut Landing farm is located at the end of a farm lane of Walnut Landing Road southwest of the village of Galestown, Dorchester County, Maryland. The farm is located near the entrance of Marshyhope Creek (formerly Northwest Branch) where it enters the Nanticoke River. The farm complex consists of a two-story, three-bay, center hall plan frame dwelling dating to the late nineteenth century as well as a small wagon house/stable and a frame garage. The house stands on a prominent sand hill, a site surely occupied by native Americans in prehistoric and historic times, especially since this farm and a sizable region around it was part of the Nanticoke Indian reservation created during the late seventeenth century and occupied by native tribes through much of the eighteenth century. The property is now under Nature Conservancy ownership.

The two-story, three-bay frame house, built around 1880, is supported on brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad in asbestos shingles that cover plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched roof, finished with boxed cornices and extended eaves, is sheathed with asphalt shingles over wood shingles. Attached to the back of the two-story main block is a single-story kitchen wing dating from the same period. The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical elevation with a center entrance and flanking sidelights and transom. The four-panel front door is finished with heavy profile moldings and the top panels have round arched headers. Flanking the entrance are two-over-two sash windows framed by narrow beaded edge surrounds retaining fragmentary shutter hinges. The second story is defined by three window openings. The center and eastern bays retain six-over-six sash windows whereas the western opening is fitted with a two-over-two sash window.

The east gable end is pierced by pairs of six-over-six sash windows on each story that flank an interior end brick stove stack. The top of the stack is finished with a simply decorated cap. Flanking the stack to light the attic is a pair of four-pane windows. The extended eave of the roof is finished with returns.

The west gable end is marked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows on each floor and four-pane windows that light the attic and flank the interior end brick stove chimney.

The north side of the main block is largely covered by the single-story one-room plan kitchen wing, which has shed roofed extensions on its east and west sides. The west side shed roofed extension is a porch, whereas the east side includes a pantry and enclosed porch. Rising through the gable end is a single flue brick stove chimney.

The interior of the house is trimmed with a combination of woodwork finishes that are common to the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. The center hall retains its original staircase with turned newel posts and rectangular stick balusters common to the early to mid nineteenth century. The oval profile handrail is more typical of the mid nineteenth century and was probably reused from another dwelling. Four-panel door framed by plain surrounds open into the adjacent parlor to the east and dining

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Name Black Walnut Landing Farm  
**Continuation Sheet**

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room to the west. Both rooms retain Greek Revival style mantels with plain pilasters and thick mantel shelves. The parlor mantel is distinguished with a paneled frieze, whereas the frieze of the dining room mantel is plain. The second floor is finished plainly with four-panel doors opening into the small bedrooms. The kitchen has been remodeled over the years with little late nineteenth-century fabric evident. The covered over plaster ceiling has sawn late and mature cut nails.

The wagon house/stable is a bi-level frame structure standing north of the house. The gable-front frame outbuilding is covered with vertical board siding and a steeply pitched tin roof. The gable front elevation is pierced by a siding wagon bay door. A boarded over door opening allows access to the loft. Attached to the west side of the wagon house/stable is a shed roofed extension housing a second wagon bay. The east side of the main block is divided into animal stalls that have board doors along its length.

The second outbuilding is an early twentieth century single-story, single-bay garage covered with vertical board siding and a medium pitched tin roof. The garage framing is assembled with wire nails.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-752

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Located at the point where the Marshyhope Creek empties into the Nanticoke River, the Black Walnut Landing farm is defined by a late nineteenth century complex sited on a high sandy knoll overlooking the creek frontage and what has been historically called "Lower Black Walnut Landing."<sup>1</sup> Formerly part of the Nanticoke Indian reservation, the high, well-drained nature of the site next to the navigable Marshyhope Creek and Nanticoke River made it an idea site for native American occupation. The extant historic buildings on the property date from the late nineteenth century and include a two-story, three-bay center hall frame house dating around 1880 during the ownership of merchant John B. Taylor. John B. Taylor is located at this site on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, which is labeled "Walnut Landing." There was a store located at the site along with a dwelling.<sup>2</sup> Both John B. Taylor and his son are listed in the atlas patron list as merchants, having relocated to Dorchester County from adjacent Wicomico County in 1872.<sup>3</sup> The atlas business directory lists the father and son partnership:

*J. B. & J. E. TAYLOR, General Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Teas, Hardware, Crockery, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes. Would respectfully invite an examination of Stock believing that all can be satisfied, and it is for their interest to make purchases here. Arrangements have been made to keep constantly supplied with all the newest styles of Goods, Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Patent Medicines, & c. Walnut Landing, Md.*<sup>4</sup>

The constant supply of consumer goods at wharf-front store was provided by means of the family-owned schooner, *Mary Alice*, and two scows that plied the waters of the Nanticoke and Marshyhope during the mid to late nineteenth century. In 1879, John B. Taylor wrote his will, leaving the Dorchester County Indian Town lands and the schooner *Mary Alice* and ½ interest in the

<sup>1</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, CL 24/327, 7 April 1900.

<sup>2</sup> John L. Graham, *The 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore*, Wicomico County Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 66.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 84.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. 66.

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two scows, along with his gold watch, to his partner son, John. In April 1900, John E. Taylor and his wife, Annie C. Taylor, then residing in Wicomico County, conveyed the "Lower Black Walnut Landing" and property known as "Indiantown Farm" and "Quioccasin Swamp" to Joshua J. Bennett for \$3,100.<sup>5</sup> The farm remained in Bennett family ownership until the mid twentieth century.

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<sup>5</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, CL 24, 327, 7 April 1900.



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Black Walnut Landing Farm  
Walnut Landing Road  
Galestown vicinity

Map 46, Parcel 26

MLB 406/94

James Bennett Spear, Sr.

to

7.7.1999

The Nature Conservancy

352/562

James Bennett Spear, Sr.

to

2.5.1957

James Bennett Spear, Sr. Trustee

221/553

Shirley Claire Spear, Personal Representative of the Estate  
of John Walter Spear, Jr.

to

12.28.1981

James Bennett Spear  
(died intestate 5.8.1979)



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RSM 60/444

Calvin Harrington, Jr. Eleanor D. Harrington

to

10.28.1946

J. Walter Spear and Anna B. Spear

RSM 60/440

Brice L. Bennett et al. (Catherine M. Bennett, William J. Bennett, and Verna S. Bennett, his wife, Russell M. Bennett and Ora Mae H. Bennett, his wife, all of the city of Denver, Colorado, and Anna B. Spear and J. Walter Spear, her husband, J. Arlington Bennett and Elizabeth B. Bennett, his wife, Doris B. Ralph and Walter T. Ralph, her husband, S. Chauncey Bennett and Mary Belle Bennett, his wife, all of Dorchester County, and James S. McAllister and Mary Louise McAllister, his wife of Wicomico County

to

10.28.1946

Calvin Harrington, Jr.

CL 24/327

John E. Taylor, Annie E. Taylor, Wicomico County

to

4.7.1900

Joshua J. Bennett, Dorchester County

"Lower Black Walnut Landing," "Indiantown Farm,"  
"Quioccosin Swamp" 500 acres, except for the land as was given  
or sold....by the said John P. Taylor, dec'd for the use of Manship  
Chapel and school house near by....

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Continuation Sheet

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CL 11/65

John E. Taylor

to

4.3.1888

Joshua J. Bennett

\$ 1,687.50

75 acres, cleared lands, 30 acres timberland, 50 acres  
of cripple lands

Dorchester County  
Will Book  
JWF 1/27

Last Will and Testament of John B. Taylor

to

Written  
9.29.1879  
Proved  
4.24.1883

John E. Taylor

on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 1886, John E. Taylor filed the Last Will and Testament of John B. Taylor, the original thereof having been filed in the office of the Register of Wills for Wicomico County....

First: to three daughters, Sophronia Jane Taylor  
Loretto Anne Taylor  
Mary Alice Taylor

"my dwelling and the lot on which it stands where I now reside it being part of the tract of land called "Gladstons Adventure"

Fifth: I give and devise to my son John E. Taylor and his heirs, all my Indian Town lands in Dorchester County, which I purchased of William Howeth, Mary Ann Parks and John H. Seward, and all my cripple land in the same county on the North side of Indian Creek, and also my cripple land containing 15 acres more or less called Sandy Point in Dorchester County, I

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also give my said son John E. Taylor my schooner called Mary Alice and one half of my two scows; and all my share of the partnership property and effects of the firm of J.B. & J. E. Taylor in Dorchester County, and also my gold watch...

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Recods, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Dorchester County Wills, Will of John B. Taylor, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Graham, John L. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. 1976.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 125 acres

Acreage of historical setting 500 acres

Quadrangle name Rhodesdale, Md 1974 (revised) Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

## 11. Form Prepared by

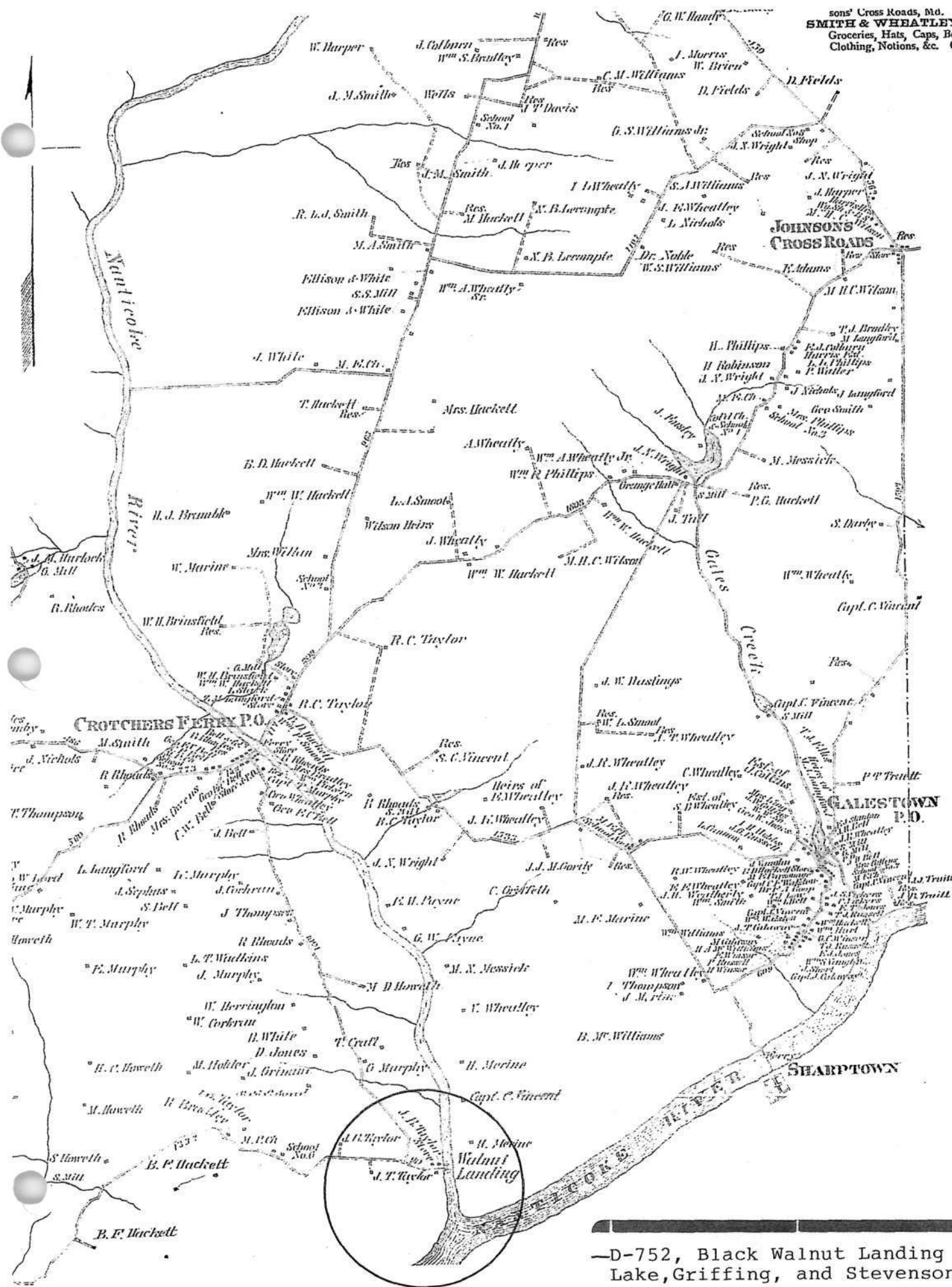
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	1/08/2008
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

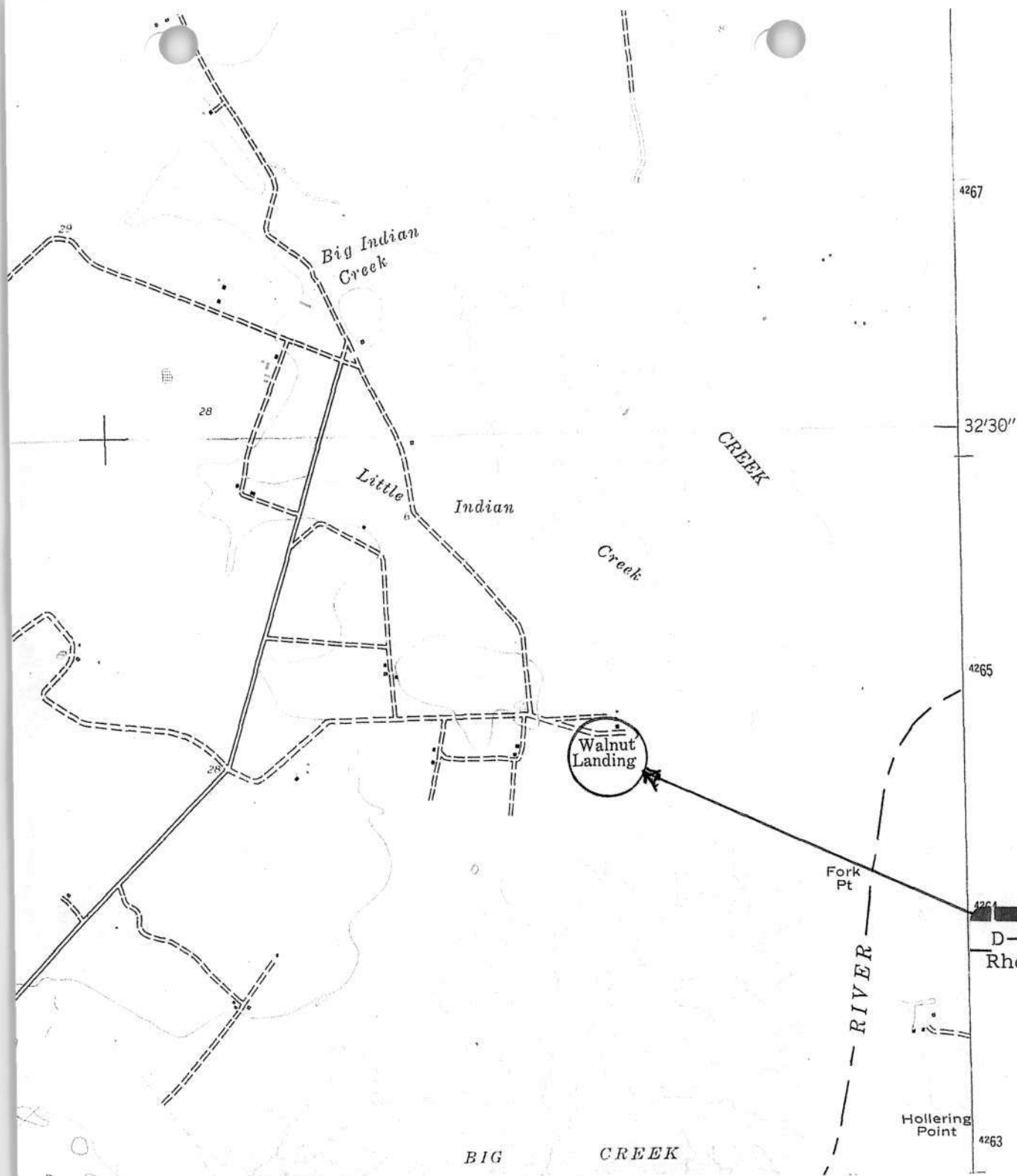
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

sons' Cross Roads, Md.  
**SMITH & WHEATLEY**, Dealer  
 Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoe  
 Clothing, Notions, &c. Galetstown



—D-752, Black Walnut Landing Farm—  
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson, 1877







D-752

Black Walnut Landing Barn  
Galetown W., Dorchester Co., MD  
South elevation

1.2008, Paul Touart, photographer  
NEE./MD Historical Trust



D-252

BLACK WALNUT LANDING FARM  
BROOKVIEW RD, DORCHESTER Co., MD.  
SOUTH ELEVATION  
2/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER  
WET. / MD. HISTORIC TAUST



D-752

Black Walnut Lagoon, Farm  
Brookview vicinity,

Dorchester Co., Md.

STAIRCASE

2/08, Paul Touant, photo.

Wth. / md. Historical Trust



D-752

Black Walnut Landing Farm  
Brookview Vic, Dorchester Co. MD.

Outbuildings - Northwest Elev.

2/08, Paul Touart, photographer

Neh/MD. Historical Trust